

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Koellner et al.
Serial No. : 10/562,172
Filed : December 21, 2005
For : Door Module
Group Art Unit : 3634
Confirmation No. : 1304
Examiner : Gregory J. Strimbu

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on December 22, 2010, in the above identified application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings contains changes to Figure 2b. This figure, which contains Figures 2a and 2b, replaces the original sheet containing these drawings. In Figure 2b, element 9 has been changed for the purpose of clarity.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A module for covering an opening in a motor vehicle door and for supporting a door inner trim, comprising:

 a base body including a base and at least one bracket movable with respect to the base, the bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element surface contacting an edge region surrounding the opening, the bracket including at least one fixation point for fastening only to the door inner trim, and

fixation elements fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening,

 wherein the fixation elements fasteners and the at least one bracket are laterally offset from each other with respect to a plane defined by the module.

2. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the module includes a sheet of one of a metal and a plastic.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, further comprising:
 a peripheral seal limiting the passage of moisture through the opening.

5. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the bracket is integrally formed on the base body.

6. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 5, wherein the bracket is coupled to the base by a film hinge.

7. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the bracket

includes a clipping opening sized to receive and clip therein a corresponding part of the inner trim.

8. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bracket includes 3 to 20 brackets distributed around a periphery of the module.

9. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bracket includes 5 to 15 brackets distributed around a periphery of the module.

10. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the at least one bracket includes 8 to 12 brackets distributed around a periphery of the module.

11. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein the bracket is fastened to the base by at least one spring element.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein an elasticity of the bracket relative to the base is such that the base is movable with respect to a support edge of the bracket in a direction substantially perpendicular to a plane of the door by up to 1mm while maintaining pressure between the support edge and the edge of the opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 1, wherein an elasticity of the bracket relative to the base is such that the base is movable with respect to a support edge of the bracket in a direction substantially perpendicular to a plane of the door by 2-6 mm while maintaining pressure between the support edge and the edge of the opening.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle door, comprising:

one of an inner panel and a door frame with an opening;

a module including a base body, the base body including a base and at least one bracket moveable with respect to the base, the bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element surfacee contacting an edge region surrounding the opening, the bracket including at least one fixation point for fastening only to a door inner trim;

a peripheral seal limiting the passage of moisture through the opening separating the base body in a wet side and a dry side; and

fixation elements fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening,

wherein the door inner trim is fixed on the bracket via the fixation opening point, and

wherein the fixation elements fasteners are arranged on the wet side of the base body and the at least one bracket is arranged on the dry side of the base body, and

wherein the fixation elements fasteners and the at least one bracket are separated by the peripheral seal and are laterally offset from each other with respect to a plane defined by the module.

17. (Previously Presented) A motor vehicle door according to claim 16, wherein the opening is a cut-out of the inner panel and is covered by the door module.

18. (Previously Presented) A motor vehicle door according to claim 16, wherein the opening is at least partly limited by the door frame.

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claims 3, 12 and 15 have been cancelled. The Drawings have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found at least at Figure 3a of the originally filed application. Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, 14, and 16-18 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended as per the Examiner's suggestion during the March 16, 2011 telephone interview. Therefore, in light of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE DRAWING OBJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The drawings stand objected to because it is unclear how, in Figure 2b, element 9 represents a locking lug 9. In view of the amendment to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Koa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,852). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Lau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,048,234).

Claim 1, as amended, recites, “[a] module for covering an opening in a motor vehicle door and for supporting a door inner trim, comprising: a base body including a base and at least one bracket movable with respect to the base, *the bracket including a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element contacting an edge region surrounding the opening, and fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening*, wherein the fasteners and the at least one bracket are laterally offset from each other with

respect to a plane defined by the module.”

As previously stated, the claims have been amended as per the Examiner’s suggestion during the March 16, 2011 telephone interview. Applicants respectfully submit, and the Examiner has also indicated, that Koa and Lau are silent regarding a “*bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element contacting an edge region surrounding the opening, and fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening,*” as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4-7, 8, 9, and 11-14 under both Koa and Lau is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Reul et al. (U.S. Publ. Appln. No. 2004/0049988).

Claim 16, as amended, recites, “motor vehicle door, comprising: one of an inner panel and a door frame with an opening; a module including a base body, the base body including a base and at least one bracket moveable with respect to the base, *the bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element contacting an edge region surrounding the opening;* a peripheral seal limiting the passage of moisture through the opening separating the base body in a wet side and a dry side; and *fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening, wherein the door inner trim is fixed on the bracket via the fixation opening,* and wherein the fasteners are arranged on the wet side of the base body and the at least one bracket is arranged on the dry side of the base body, and wherein the fasteners and the at least one bracket are separated by the peripheral seal and are laterally offset from each other with respect to a plane defined by the module.

As previously stated, the claims have been amended as per the Examiner's suggestion during the March 16, 2011 telephone interview. Applicants respectfully submit, and the Examiner has also indicated, that Reul is silent regarding a "*the bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element contacting an edge region surrounding the opening; a peripheral seal limiting the passage of moisture through the opening separating the base body in a wet side and a dry side; and fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening, wherein the door inner trim is fixed on the bracket via the fixation opening,*" as recited in claim 16. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 16 and its dependent claims 17 and 18 under Reul is respectfully requested.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

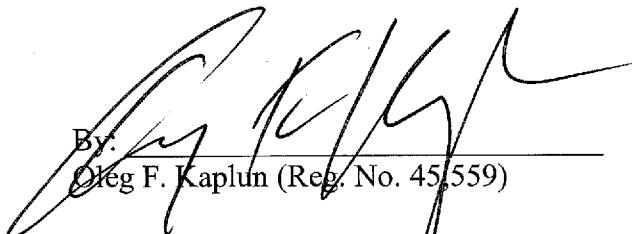
Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Lau.

As previously stated, Lau fails to disclose or "*bracket including a) a first portion having at least one fixation opening for fastening only to the door inner trim and b) a second portion substantially perpendicular to the first portion, the second portion including a supporting element contacting an edge region surrounding the opening, and fasteners for fastening only the module on the edge region of the opening,*" as recited in claim 1. Therefore, because claim 10 depends on and, therefore, contains all of the limitations of claim 1, the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: April 18, 2011

Annotated Sheet

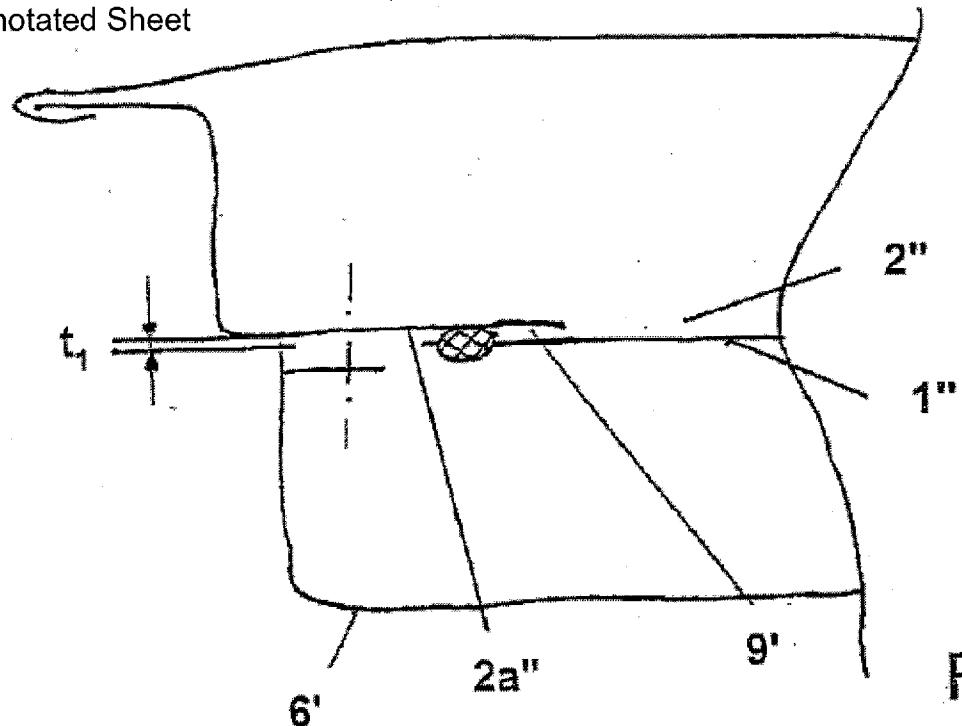


Fig. 2a

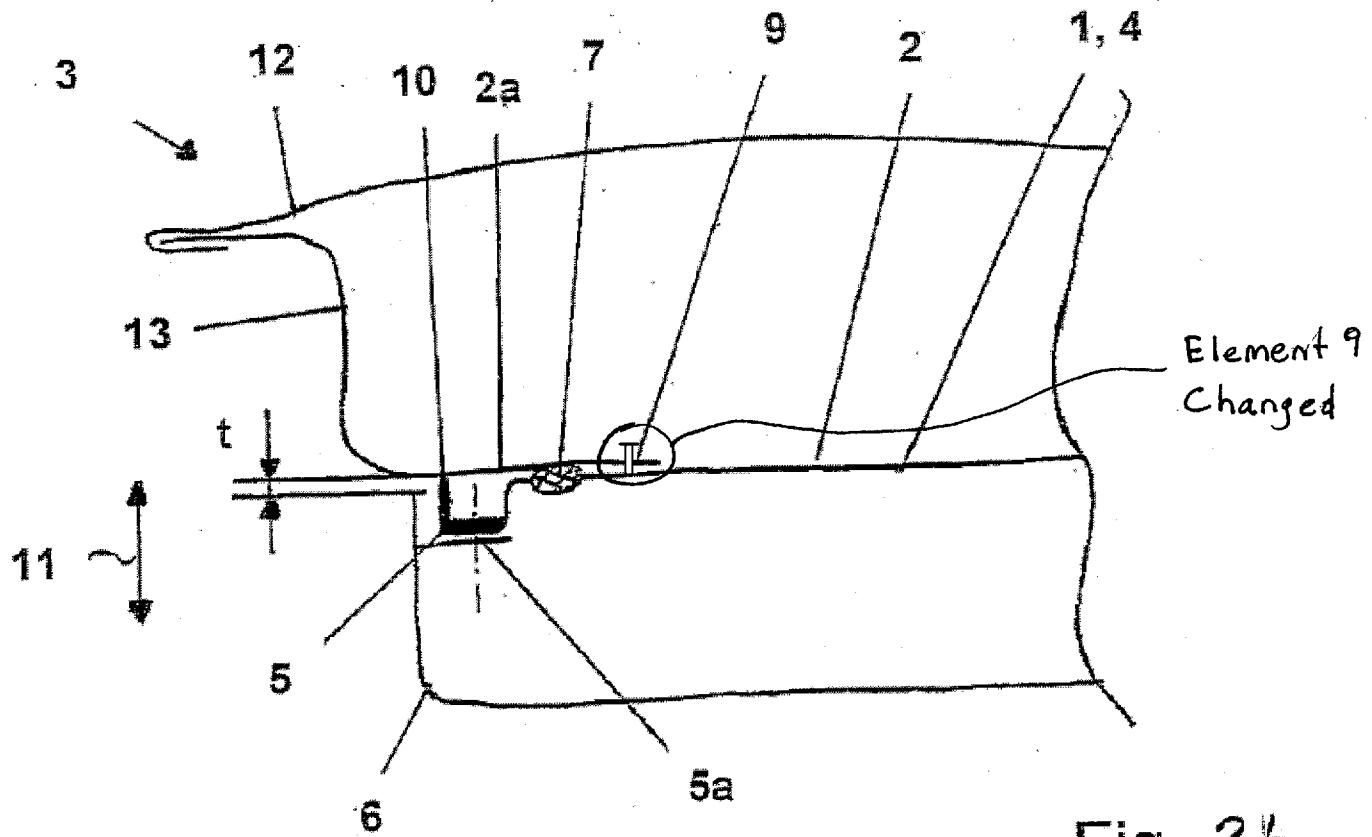


Fig. 2b

Replacement Sheet

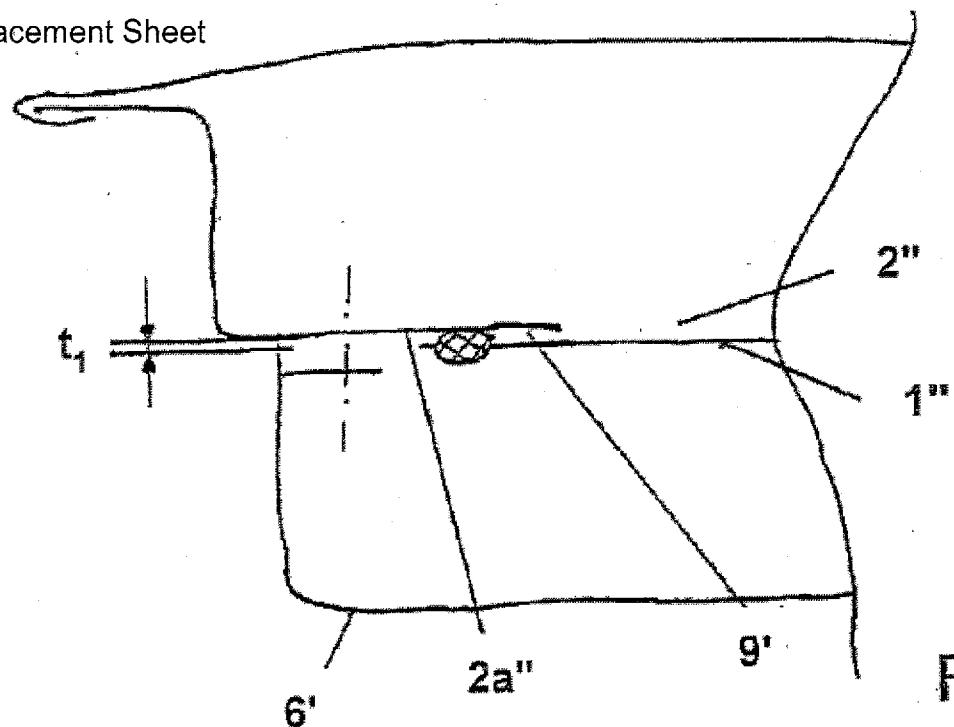


Fig. 2a

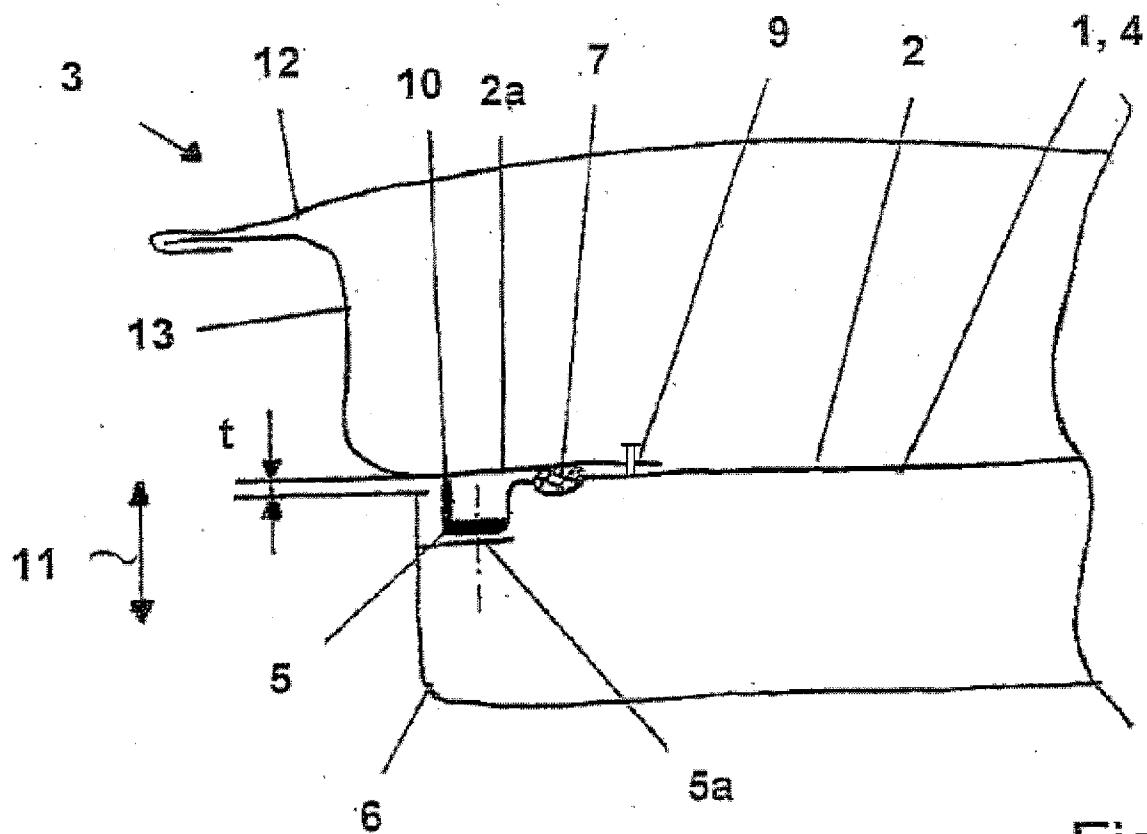


Fig. 2b